

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 BIB-01 /065 W

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R 112230Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2497

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION CINCPAC INFO CANBERRA AND SYDNEY DEC 11
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, AS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN WRITER (GORE VIDAL) MAKES INFERENTIAL ATTACK
ON FOREIGN SERVICE AND OTHER AMERICAN AGENCIES

1. AUTHOR GORE VIDAL, CURRENTLY IN AUSTRALIA ON BOOK PROMOTION
TOUR, HAS MADE MUCH USE OF MEDIA DECEMBER 9-10 TO MAKE CAUSTIC
COMMENT ON AMERICAN POLICY, OFFICIALS AND PERSONALITIES. LOW POINT
OF VIDAL ATTACKS CAME DURING SEVERAL TELEVISION INTERVIEWS WIDELY
SCREENED DURING PRIME TIME DECEMBER 9.

2. DURING NATIONAL NEWS PROGRAM 6.30 PM CHANNEL 7, DECEMBER 9, VIDAL
SAID HE HAD BEEN WARNED THAT "IF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WAS AVAILABLE
BEFORE I CAME TO AUSTRALIA HE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE WHEN I GOT
THERE". HE NOTED FURTHER THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD SO FAR NOT BEEN
AVAILABLE. HE ALSO COMMENDED THE MELBOURNE CONGEN FOR ACCEPTING
INVITATION TO ATTEND PUBLIC LUNCHEON TO BE ADDRESSED BY VIDAL,
SAYING CONGEN "MUST BE MAN OF GREAT COURAGE" AS AMERICAN
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DIPLOMATS FLEE AT HIS APPROACH.

3. IN INTERVIEW AT 7 PM CHANNEL 9, DECEMBER 9, VIDAL GAVE AT GREAT LENGTH HIS OPINION THAT CIA WAS PRESENT DANGER TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AUSTRALIA AND HAND "UNDOUBTEDLY" BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LABOR PARTY DEFEAT IN QUEENSLAND STATE ELECTIONS HELD DECEMBER 7. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT CIA THROUGHOUT WORLD HAD AS MATTER OF POLICY SOUGHT TO OVERTHROW ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS SOCIALIST AND OPPOSED TO AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.

4. IN RADIO INTERVIEW ON 3AW MORNING OF DECEMBER 9 VIDAL, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, STATED THAT SENATOR BROWN WAS "PROBABLY RIGHT" IN HIS CHARGES OF LAST JUNE THAT AMBASSADOR GREEN IS CHIEF CIA HATCHET MAN WHO HAS BEEN SENT TO AUSTRALIA IN ORDER TO ORGANIZE MILITARY COUP D' ETAT BY AUSTRALIAN ARMY TO OVERTHROW WHITLAM GOVERNMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS TYPICAL OF THE SORT OF THINGS THE U.S. DID ABROAD.

5. IN SEVERAL INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL PRESS, VIDAL CRITICIZED EX"PRESIDENT NIXON AS "ADMITTED CRIMINAL" AND SAID PRESIDENT FORD WAS EXAMPLE OF NIXON'S SLY WIT IN FOISTING SUCH A MAN ON AMERICAN PUBLIC.

6. COMMENT: WHILE ALL FOREGOING IS PERHAPS VINTAGE VIDAL, CONGEN OFFICERS THOUGHT AMBASSADOR GREEN WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING OF STATEMENTS PRIOR HIS RETURN TO AUSTRALIA LATER THIS WEEK.
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